



## The Ehlers e-Newsletter

For the Week of December 6, 2004

Visit our website at <http://www.house.gov/ehlers>

*EDITOR'S NOTE – This will be the final edition of the Ehlers e-Newsletter for 2004 and the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress. A blessed holiday season to you.*

### *News from Congressman Ehlers ...*

**EHLERS HELPS LEAD EFFORT ADVOCATING GREAT LAKES CLEANUP –** Congressman Vernon J. Ehlers Friday joined many federal, state, local and tribal officials from throughout the Great Lakes region in signing a document pledging support to protect, improve and restore the Great Lakes.

*For more information, please read the press release on our website:*

[http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03\\_ehlers/120304GLCollaboration.html](http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/mi03_ehlers/120304GLCollaboration.html)

### **THIS WEEK IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

#### **MONDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2004**

*On Monday, the House will meet at 2 p.m. for legislative business. Votes will be postponed until 6 p.m.*

#### **Suspensions (5 bills):**

*(Bills on suspension are generally considered non-controversial and have reduced debate time, but require a two-thirds majority vote to be passed.)*

- 1) **H.Con.Res. 528 - Directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make corrections in the enrollment of H.R. 4818:** Directs the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make the following corrections in the enrollment of H.R. 4818 (Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2005): (1) remove provisions relating to the collection of State unemployment compensation debts and add provisions directing the Secretary of the Treasury to furnish information comparisons and disclosures to the Secretary of Health and Human Services to assist in the collection of delinquent non-tax debt owed to the United States; (2) reduce from .83 to .80 percent the across-the-board rescissions applicable to the budget authority in specified appropriations Acts for FY 2005; and (3) remove a provision requiring the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to provide designated agents of the House or Senate Appropriations Committee with access to IRS facilities and tax return information.
- 2) **S. 2856 - To limit the transfer of certain Commodity Credit Corporation funds between conservation programs for technical assistance for the**

- programs:** Amends the Food Security Act of 1985 to: (1) make certain Commodity Credit Corporation technical assistance funding available for producers and landowners participating in specified agricultural conservation programs; and (2) limit such funding only to the program for which it was made available.
- 3) **S. 2657 - Federal Employee Dental and Vision Benefits Enhancement Act of 2004:** establishes a voluntary program under which federal employees and annuitants may purchase supplemental dental and vision insurance as part of the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program. It follows the design of the current Long-Term Care Insurance Program, whose premiums are wholly employee-funded, but allows the federal government to leverage its purchasing power to lower the cost of care in these areas.
  - 4) **H.R. 4012 - To amend the District of Columbia College Access Act of 1999:** Amends the District of Columbia Access Act of 1999 to permanently authorize the public school and private school tuition assistance programs established under the Act.
  - 5) **H.R. 5394 - To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the taxation of arrow components:** Repeals subsection (b) of section 332 of the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004, and the amendments made by such subsection; and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 shall be applied as if such subsection and amendments had never been enacted.

## **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2004 AND THE BALANCE OF THE WEEK**

*On Tuesday and the balance of the week, the House may meet at 10 a.m. for legislative business, if necessary.*

*\* Possible Motions to go to Conference*

*\* Possible Motions to Instruct Conferees*

### **Historical Tidbits**

#### **On Dec. 6 ...**

**1790** - The U.S. Congress moved from New York to Philadelphia.

**1865** - The 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified. The amendment abolished slavery in the U.S.

**1884** - The construction of the Washington Monument was completed by Army engineers. The project took 34 years.

**1947** - Everglades National Park in Florida was dedicated by U.S. President Truman.

**1985** - Congressional negotiators reached an agreement on a deficit-cutting proposal that later became the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings law.

#### **On Dec. 7 ...**

**1787** - Delaware became the first state to ratify the U.S. constitution becoming the first of the United States.

**1796** - John Adams was elected to be the second president of the United States.

**1836** - Martin Van Buren was elected the eighth president of the United States.

**1941** - Pearl Harbor, located on the Hawaiian island of Oahu was attacked by nearly 200 Japanese warplanes. The attack resulted in the U.S. entering into World War II.

**1993** - Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders suggested that the U.S. government study the impact of drug legalization.

**1998** - U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno declined to seek an independent counsel investigation of President Clinton over 1996 campaign financing.

**On Dec. 8 ...**

**1863** - U.S. President Abraham Lincoln announced his plan for the Reconstruction of the South.

**1941** - The United States entered World War II when it declared war against Japan. The act came one day after the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. Britain and Canada also declared war on Japan.

**1987** - U.S. President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev signed a treaty agreeing to destroy their nations' arsenals of intermediate-range nuclear missiles.

**1993** - U.S. President Clinton signed into law the North American Free Trade Agreement.

**On Dec. 9 ...**

**1975** - U.S. President Gerald R. Ford signed a \$2.3 billion seasonal loan authorization to prevent New York City from having to default.

**1994** - U.S. President Clinton fired Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders after learning that she had told a conference that masturbation should be discussed in school as a part of human sexuality.

**On Dec. 10 ...**

**1980** - South Carolina Representative John W. Jenrette resigned to avoid being expelled from the U.S. House of Representatives following his conviction on charges to the FBI's Abscam investigation.

*(Information from <http://www.on-this-day.com>)*